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WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

FOURTH MEETING
Sao Paulo, Brazil
25 October - 4 November 1985

WCED/85/CRD 3

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Action required: For Discussion

October 18, 1985

WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

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To: All Members of the World Commission
on Environment and Development

From: The Secretary General

Date: 14 October 1985

Re: PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Since the Oslo meeting, significant progress has been made in the work of the Commission.
2. Concerning the substantive programme, work is now well underway:
 - the Advisory Panels on Energy and Sustainable Development and Industry and Sustainable Development have both met, as has the special group on International Economic Relations, Environment and Development established by the Commission at its last meeting;
 - a preliminary draft of the Energy Panel's report to the Commission has been prepared and work on the draft reports on Food Security, Industry and Decision Support Systems is well underway;
 - the Commission has before it in Sao Paulo a draft report on Disputes Settlement and a progress report on International Legal Principles for Sustainable Development; a preliminary report on International Economic Relations, Environment and Development; and three draft reports on Human Settlements which, following further direction and refinement, can form the basis of a draft report to the Commission in that area;

- the work on Security and the Environment is about to be launched and has attracted the interest of a Foundation (as has some other work - see below);
 - several background reports commissioned in the different programme areas have been received, and it seems evident that many will have the quality needed not only to provide useful ideas and analyses in support of our work, but also to be considered for publication in appropriate forms.
3. The "Mandate" document has been reprinted and distributed under its new title "Mandate for Change", and a draft outline of the Commission's Final Report (Official) and a refined proposal for the Final Report (Popular) have been prepared and will be before the Commission in Sao Paulo. Work to encourage television productions on the issues embodied in the Commission's Alternative Agenda has continued and is bearing fruit.
 4. Meetings and consultations with government, institutes, NGO's and others have continued apace. The Secretariat has been active in support of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and several Commissioners who have been and are in consultations with their and other governments. Further NGO-organized activities are underway in the Federal Republic of Germany and are being considered by NGO's in the United Kingdom and the United States.
 5. Much time has also been spent on fundraising and budgetary matters and a status report of fundraising efforts and results to date, as well as a new budget projection for the remainder of the Commission's work have been prepared and will be put before the Commission for its review in Sao Paulo.

International Economic Relations, Environment and Development

6. The Secretariat's work on International Economic Relations, Environment and Development has been strengthened with the arrival of a senior development economist, Mr Nitin Desai. It has also been guided by the ad hoc group of Commissioners established in Oslo. The group met on 10-11 September in Geneva, with Commissioner Strong in the the chair and Commissioners Okita and Stanovnik in attendance. Mr Vince Cabel of the Commonwealth Secretariat acted on behalf of Commissioner Ramphal. At the very last moment, Commissioner Sahnoun was prevented from attending.
7. Based on the discussions during that meeting, the Secretariat has prepared the preliminary draft paper on International Economic Relations, Environment and Development which is before you in Sao Paulo. In addition, a paper on transnational corporations and another on economic ecological-trade linkages have been commissioned and one on development assistance is nearing completion in the Secretariat. The ad hoc group of Commissioners discussed October, 17, 1985

the need to examine potential methods of financing international actions concerning the global commons and concerning sustainable development generally and a discussion paper is being prepared to launch discussion on this question. A further paper on trade in pollution intensive products has been commissioned. Among other things, it will explore the thesis that existing and evolving trade patterns necessarily lead to a massive shift of environmental costs from advanced, industrialized countries to resource based economies. It will examine some options available to deal with the problems that flow from this process. This study has also attracted the interest of a Foundation.

8. The ad hoc group of Commissioners plans a second meeting some time after Sao Paulo to further advance the work in the light of discussions there. All of the commissioned papers mentioned above should be available in draft form before the end of December and a working group of experts is planned in the New Year to review them and to take up some related questions and issues that run through the Commission's entire agenda (eg. the concept of sustainable development, classical economics and sustainable development, etc.).
9. Consultations on aspects of this work have taken place with our Special Advisor, Dr Gamani Corea, with staff in UNCTAD and other bodies. These will continue.

Energy and Sustainable Development

10. A successful first meeting of the Advisory Panel on Energy and Sustainable Development took place in Geneva immediately after the Oslo Meeting under the Chairmanship of H.E. Enrique Iglesias. Following an intensive discussion of the critical issues and some possible conclusions, a small drafting group was constituted to prepare a preliminary draft of the Panel's report. A first version of this report is now being considered by the drafting group and, when ready, it will be submitted to the members of the Panel for review and comment in writing. A further draft will then be prepared and it will be submitted to the second meeting of the Advisory Panel in late February or early March. This process reflects a postponement of the Panel's second meeting, which was scheduled for Montevideo later this month.
11. The Panel expects to complete its report and recommendations in time to have them presented and considered at the Commission's meeting in May. The report will, of course, be circulated to Commissioners as soon as it is available. A rough outline of their report is reflected in the outline of the Final Report (Official) which is before you for consideration in Sao Paulo.

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12. The background reports commissioned on this topic should be in by the end of November. Judging from those received to date in draft form, many will be useful sources of ideas and analyses and several will, no doubt, merit publication in an appropriate form. The Commission will recall that the report on Acid Rain was considered in Oslo and it was agreed that it should be published. Options for this are being developed.

Industry and Sustainable Development

13. A successful first meeting of the Advisory Panel on Industry and Sustainable Development took place recently under the Chairmanship of Professor Umberto Colombo. It discussed the issues from several perspectives, considered an outline for its report to the Commission and constituted a small drafting group to prepare a preliminary draft of its report. The Industry Panel plans to follow a process similar to that of the Energy Panel and expects to be able to consider a full draft of its report at its second meeting now scheduled for March 1986.
14. This Panel also intends to complete its report and recommendations in time to have them presented to the Commission at its meeting in May. Again it would appear that some of the background papers commissioned for this work will merit publication in an appropriate form.

Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment

15. The Panel on Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment met shortly before the Oslo meeting and, among other things, considered the African Crisis on which it made a special submission to the Commission. Since then discussions have continued with the Chairman, Dr M.S. Swaminathan and a small drafting group is actively preparing a preliminary draft of the Panel's report to the Commission. A rough outline of their report is reflected in the draft outline for the Commission's Final Report (Official).
16. Again, the process being followed is similar to that mentioned earlier for the Energy panel. A full draft of the Panel's report, reflecting at least one round of written comments by Panel members, will be considered at their next meeting early in the New Year. Thanks to the efforts of the Vice-Chairman, this work may attract funding support enabling the next meeting of the Panel to take place in Africa. Several African countries would like to host a meeting of this Panel.
17. The Panel's report should be presented formally to the Commission in May, although it will be circulated to Commissioners as soon as it is available. All of the background papers commissioned in this area are expected to be received by mid-November and, again, several may merit publication in an appropriate form.

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18. Forestry is part of the work on Food Security and is relevant to other issues on the Commission's agenda. The Commission will consider a paper on Moist Tropical Forests by Professor Mark Dourojeanni in Sao Paulo, and it will be visiting tropical forests in the State of Sao Paulo and Amazonia. At the Public Hearings, it will be presented with a proposal for a world plan of action on forests which has been prepared by the World Resources Institute in cooperation with the World Bank, UNDP and other bodies and under a Task Force that includes Commissioner Paulo Nogueira-Neto.

Human Settlements

19. Following the stimulating debate in Jakarta provoked by Dr Ramachandran's excellent presentation, the Sao Paulo meeting will present the first opportunity for the Commission to consider the issues of Human Settlements, Environment and Development. Three of the five major papers commissioned in this area will be before you in draft form, along with a Secretariat note on some of the key issues.
20. These papers are also being submitted to a group of experts, including those previously considered for a Panel on this topic, for review and comment. Subsequently, they will be finalized and, given their fresh approach to the issues and their quality, consideration will need to be given to their publication in an appropriate form.
21. Following Sao Paulo, a draft outline for the report to the Commission will be prepared. This report should be available in the spring and it is felt that it should reflect as closely as possible what might be the Commission's treatment of the issues in its own report.

International Cooperation

22. In Oslo the Commission received a report of the Hague meeting of the experts group on environmental law and in Sao Paulo it will consider a progress report on proposed "International Legal Principles for Sustainable Development", within the context of its discussion on International Cooperation. Following this discussion, a full report will be prepared by the experts groups for submission to the Commission. The Commission will also consider a draft report on "Disputes Settlement" in Sao Paulo. It too will be revised following the meeting and re-submitted.
23. The Commission felt that further work in the area of international cooperation and especially any work on institutional aspects should be taken up as late as possible. While this suggests some time next year, it would be desirable for the Commission to consider the direction and organization of our future work in this area.

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Conflict and Security

24. Work on Conflict and Security is proceeding in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Earthscan. A workshop of experts will be convened in the early part of 1986 for purposes of conceptualizing the issues involved and developing a typology which will subsequently be used in a series of case studies. The Swedish Academy intends to arrange a major international conference on the subject in 1987 and the results from this innovative undertaking should form a solid basis for this aspect of the work of the Commission.
25. This work has attracted the interest of a Foundation, and it is hoped that the costs associated with it will be covered by a grant.

Decision Support Systems

26. A preliminary draft report on Decision Support Systems is now being prepared. It will be submitted to a number of experts for review and comment prior to revision in the form of a draft report with recommendations to the Commission. An attempt will be made to obtain Foundation or other support for this work and, if successful, it will be possible to convene at least one working group of experts to consider the report before it is submitted to the Commission in the spring.

Process of the work

27. It will be evident from the above that in response to the Commission's discussion in Oslo, which underlined the need to concentrate our efforts on the issues which the Commission's final report will address, and keeping in mind budgetary considerations, the process of our work has been modified. The number of commissioned papers has been reduced, the work on drafting the Panels' and other reports on the issues has been advanced somewhat, and the proposed process of work by the Panels has been streamlined. The result should be more effective in terms of cost and very probably in terms of substance as well, as it will permit more time to review the various reports and enrich the conclusions and recommendations being prepared for consideration by the Commission.

Final Report (Official)

28. The draft outline of the Final Report (Official) submitted to you for consideration at the Sao Paulo meeting has been prepared with the broad participation and input of the Secretariat staff and special advisors and it has taken into account the Commission's "Mandate for Change" as well as the many relevant discussions which the Commission has had during its previous meetings.

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29. The preparation of the outline began during a week-end long meeting in Morgins, Switzerland for senior professional staff in mid-August. The first draft outline produced at that meeting was then reviewed, restructured and refined during the course of several later meetings and with the advice of special advisors and members of the energy, industry and food security drafting groups who were available for consultation. Various drafts have also been seen and commented upon by Commissioners who have passed through Geneva since August and by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Final Report (Popular)

30. The Final Report (Popular) has been taken to a further stage of exploration and was canvassed at the Frankfurt Book Fair this month. A proposed list of contents has been worked out and is available together with some artwork sketches and specimens of proposed outreach to children's books and strip cartoons. No expenditures have been incurred. The Commission is advised that a definite decision needs to be taken at this meeting, otherwise the project, with its follow-up, will become unviable because of time pressures and will have to be abandoned.

Films

31. Two international co-productions are in an advanced planning phase and should begin scripting and production within three months. Another, the initiative of Maurice Strong, is at the fundraising stage. All three enterprises require early notification of the date of publication of the Final Report to facilitate their own planning. One of them envisages a global village meeting by satellite devoted to a discussion of the Commission's Report.

Meetings and Consultations since the Oslo meeting

32. Consultations with governments, ministers, industrial leaders, senior officials and NGO's have continued since the Oslo Meeting:
- The Chairman has made key note addresses at two major environmental conferences in Norway, and has had meetings with several senior government officials, including the Prime Minister of Sweden and key U.S. Senators and Congressmen, about the work of the Commission and financial support for it, and has visited Bonn for consultations with Chancellor Kohl concerning his government's contribution to the work of the Commission.
 - The Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission attended the Economic Summit of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa in mid-July and had consultations with African governments and institutions about the work of the Commission and the further measures
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which must be taken to ensure the recovery of the African countries. During that meeting consultations were held with the heads of the ECA, the OAU, the FAO, UNDP, IFAD, UNIDO and UNESCO and Ministers or senior representatives of Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Ivory Coast, Sudan, Cameroon, Libya, Tunisia and Tanzania. The Vice-Chairman will give a full verbal report on his consultations in Addis Ababa during the meeting in Sao Paulo.

- Immediately after the OAU Summit, the Vice-Chairman made visits to the Ivory Coast and Senegal to discuss with those governments the work of the Commission and to follow-up on funding requests submitted to them. He has also visited with government representatives in Italy and Austria for discussions about the Commission.
- Commissioner Ruckelshaus has had consultations with several U.S. governmental, industrial and non-governmental organizations concerning the work of the Commission; he has also met with key administration officials and members of Congress concerning US support for the work of the Commission.
- The Secretary General has visited North America for consultations with Canadian and American officials, as well as officials of the World Bank, foundations and several NGO's. He also visited Budapest for discussions with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Frankfurt and Bonn for discussions with the German Technical Aid Agency and with government representatives; and the Hague to meet with Ministers from Zimbabwe, Jordan, Egypt, Nigeria, and Gambia and the Netherlands, and to attend and deliver a presentation to the 4th International Conference on Environment and Development.

33. The Commission has been represented at a number of conferences since Oslo:

- The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission on the Application of Science to Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture by Dr Shimwaayi Muntemba;
- A Symposium sponsored by the United States Mission in Geneva on Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth-Promoting Private Initiative in Developing Countries by Dr Kazu Kato;
- The UNEP/ICSU/WMO Villach Meeting on Climatic Change by Prof. Gordon Goodman;
- The Aspen Institute's (Berlin) conference on Harmonizing Ecology, Economy and Technology: Limits and Possibilities by Commissioner Hauff.

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34. Finally, the Commission will be represented by the Chairman and Commissioners Hauff and Marino de Botero at a conference sponsored by the Ebert Foundation and INDERENA on Environment Policy and Development in Latin America being held in Bogota immediately before the Commission's meeting in Sao Paulo.

Relations with IIPC

35. Discussion and dialogue between the Commission and the IIPC is continuing in an open and cooperative way. Immediately following the Oslo meeting, the IIPC was sent copies of the written submissions made to the Commission during the Public Hearings in Oslo, and they have recently been provided with copies of "Mandate for Change" for circulation to all members. In addition, the Vice-Chairman has accepted an invitation to meet with the IIPC, on behalf of the Chairman, at its next scheduled meeting in December to give them a report on the Oslo and Sao Paulo meetings of the Commission and up-date them on the progress of the Commission's work. The Secretary General has also recently met with Dr Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Commission will be given a verbal report on his meeting with Dr Tolba during the Commission's meeting in Sao Paulo.

Staff Changes

36. Mr Nitin Desai, Senior Economic Advisor, joined the staff of the Secretariat on 1 September. Mr Vicente Sanchez, Director of Programmes, left the Secretariat on 30 September and Ms Elizabeth Monosowski, consultant, will finish her duties on 15 November. An up-to-date list of the members of the Secretariat and their functions is attached to this report as Annex 1.

Fundraising and Budgetary Matters

37. Fundraising and budgetary matters have taken up a considerable amount of the Secretariat's time since the Oslo meeting. We have made a complete review of our budgeted expenditures and have prepared a new budget projection for those expenditures through to the end of the Commission's work. The result of that exercise will be presented to the Commission in Sao Paulo.
38. Considerable efforts have also been spent in following-up the funding requests made to the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and Austria, whose grants are critical to the ongoing work of the Commission. Assistance in the follow-up of these requests has been provided by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and Commissioners Ruckelshaus, Hauff and Agnelli. As a result of these efforts, the United States Congress has now approved and appropriation of US\$1.5 million to the Commission, Italy has pledged US\$300,000 and a decision on our request to the FRG for US\$600,000 is expected shortly after the Sao Paulo meeting - a decision which we hope will be positive.

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39. With these funds, we remain with a substantial shortfall, especially in 1986, and additional follow-up will have to be made to countries which have not as yet made a pledge to the Commission. The Finance Committee will be giving a full report to the Commission on the financial situation during the Sao Paulo meeting. Clearly, the Commission will need to take another hard look at projected revenues and expenditures with a view to increasing the former or reducing the latter.

Future Commission Meetings.

40. Arrangements for the Commission's future meetings in Canada, Zimbabwe, Moscow and Tokyo are progressing, but we have unfortunately been advised by the Government of India that it will not be possible for them to host the meeting scheduled for January 1986 in New Delhi. The Government of China similarly advised that the timing was not convenient for a meeting there.
41. Given the Commission's budgetary situation and the shortness of time between the Sao Paulo meeting and January of 1986, the Commission may wish to consider other options including:
- a later meeting, say in February in Geneva, or
 - no meeting between the Sao Paulo meeting and the May meeting in Canada, using the resources and time freed to involve more Commissioners in drafting.

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COMMISSION SECRETARIAT
Status Report : October 1985

I. PROFESSIONALS

<u>Incumbent</u>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Areas of Responsibility</u>
Mr. J. MacNeill	(Canada)	Secretary General	
Mr. N. Desai	(India)	Senior Economic Adviser	International Economic Relations
Mr. K. Kato	(Japan)	Programme Director	Energy and Industry
Mr. W.H. Lindner	(USA)	Secretary of the Commission and Director of Administration	Administration
Mr. P. Stone	(UK)	Director	Information
Mr. V. Fernando	(Sri Lanka)	Senior Programme Officer	Agriculture and other
Mr. B. Gosovic	(Yugoslavia)	Senior Programme Officer	Economics, Trade
Ms. E. Monosowski*	(Brazil)	Consultant	Industry, Human Settlements
Mr. G.A. Montero	(Chile)	Programme Planning Officer	Administration
Ms. S. Muntamba	(Zambia)	Senior Programme Officer	Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment
Mr. J. Pasztor	(Hungary)	Senior Programme Officer	Energy
Ms. E. Surber	(Switzerland)	Finance and Admin. Officer	Personnel, Finance

* will leave secretariat November 15, 1985

II. GENERAL SERVICE STAFF

<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mrs. B. Baker (Germany/UK)	Secretary to the Secretary General
Ms. M. Doku* (Ghana)	Secretary
Ms. T. Dunn (France/USA)	Secretary
Ms. I. D'Souza (India)	Secretary
Mrs. T. Harmand (Poland/UK)	Secretary
Ms. C. Mayhew (Zimbabwe)	Secretary
Ms. E. Permato (Philippines)	Secretary/Press Assistant
Ms. G. Quesada (Honduras)	Secretary
Mrs. M. Raphoz* (Indonesia/Holland)	Secretary
Mr. S. Vanderwert (Sri Lanka)	Messenger

* Part time